

2005

December 05

Sat 10 **The Christmas Cracker** lived up to its name! This sellout event was marked by a great live band, a superb disco with a perfect playlist, and a fantastic atmosphere. What a nice bunch of people. Huge thanks to Andy and the rest of the crew that staged this, as well as to Surrey Harley-Davidson for their generous support. Photos are now [here](#).

Sun 4 **The Christmas Charity Dash** was something different for Surrey HOG in 2005 - and a great success! We joined over 150 other bikers on the annual toy run from the Motorcycle Workshop in Bolney for a ride in crisp winter sunshine to Gatwick Manor Hotel. There we contributed hundreds of toys and games in exchange for hot coffee and mince pies - a bargain!. The Golden Lion Children's Trust will now deliver the pile of presents to children in need in this country and elsewhere. It was just great to be doing something worthwhile as part of a cosmopolitan biking community - lovely atmosphere! Well done to Mike Wilson (Dealer Rep) for leading the ride, ably supported by Surrey HOG roadcrew.

November 05

Thu 17 **Club Night Special with Ian Mutch**. What a great turn out on a cold and frosty night! Ian (himself a Harley rider) gave an entertaining and very informative talk on the purpose and achievements of the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) to a packed audience. Ian founded MAG back in the 1960's, mainly as a political lobbying organisation to protect the interests of motorcyclists - and very effective it has been too. A bargain at £20 per year, you save more than that by riding into London 3 times a year without having to pay the congestion charge - just one of MAG's successes. MAG also produces a very good magazine 6 times a year. Quite a few Surrey HOGgies felt immediately moved to join those of us who are already members right on the spot. If you want to know more about MAG, their website is [here](#). Thanks to Ian for the talk - and thanks to Surrey HOG member Vera Sommer for setting the whole thing up!

October 05

Sun 30 **Spooky Ride to Chislehurst Caves**. So who thought it was the Caves or Halloween that made this spooky? Wrong! It was the weather - warm, sunny and dry all day - despite a definitely dodgy forecast for the afternoon! This was a relaxed 16 bike ride through the A25 villages and then up past Biggin Hill for the run into the surprising Caves complex at Chislehurst. This was home of the 60's Rock Club where Hendrix, The Who, the Stones and many other rock icons played live in ancient Druid tunnels. Interesting tour and pleasant ride in lovely weather in late October. Spooky.

Sun 23 **Tribute to the Few**. How could it be the 4th weekend in October and still be sunny and warm? The still morning air was broken with the sound of Merlin engines ... no, it was the sound of American V twins as they made their way through the city, taking in Hampton Court, Richmond, and Kew. Breakfast was at the Ace Café, a mixture of bikes old and new. Then on to Colindale, where the RAF museum was interesting for all. A stunning collection of aircraft from WW1 to the latest Euro Fighter. The Battle of Britain hall has most of the planes from WW2 from all airforces, Spitfires, Hurricanes, ME109's and Stukas too. In the Bomber hall the Lancaster and the Vulcan stood menacing. Soon it was tally ho! We could have stayed hours more, so it may be a return trip soon. Once we threaded our way back to the North circular, it was White City, Shepherds Bush, Barnes Bridge and the A24 back to Dorking - a Chapter tribute to the few...

Sun 16 The Long and the Short of it

Hoggin' the Bridge started out as an early, misty, long blast down the M4. It turned into a warm, sunny and utterly spectacular scene at Severn View with wall to wall bikes that filled the entire service area. From there, 1,953 bikes crossed the old M4 bridge and invaded Wales, taking over the whole of Chepstow. The natives waved and cheered us in and seemed very happy we had come to see them. The band played, we collected our pins, and after an hour soaking up the atmosphere and sunshine, we set off on the country route home. A great 250 mile round trip on a warm, dry October day. Well done to Bridgwater Chapter Director, Dave Holden, and his team for an awesome event!

The **Harleys and Hot Rods** ride to the Krispy Kreme store at Shannon Corner was short and sweet - just like the donuts. Hot Rod owners are like us - passionate about their machines, but with even more polishing involved! We plan to join up with them again at Easter for a BBQ.

Sat 1 DP9 led Surrey HOG along a country route to the **Oxford H-D Open Day**. Early start, but glorious weather and great riding - to be received at Oxford by none other than ... Surrey HOG! ... who did an excellent job marshalling the visitors from all over the UK on behalf of HOG UK. H-D HQ is an impressive building. Most interesting to see where the HOG ethos is nurtured. For the many that stayed for the Parade, they were treated to a well-organised event with awesome marshalling (well done, Scottie), from Oxford and Nene Valley Chapters, working with the local Police.

September 05

Sun 25 The **mystery ride** started off wet but then the weather got better and better as Terry led us through a network of Surrey's finest country lanes. We rode the the long way round to tea and bacon rolls at Newlands Corner before finally arriving at Brooklands Motor Museum. Great way to spend a sunny September morning!

Sun 18 **Pickering's review** of our great nation's fighting forces started with a great, fast paced ride down to Bovington Camp in the heart of Dorset. The weather gods delivered a bright, warm sunny day, ideal for a mainly country road blast to what is probably the best armoured vehicle museum in the world. A good couple of hours viewing all types of tanks and armoured cars from the first world war until the present, followed by an additional hour wandering through a fine collection of cars and motorcycles in the adjacent Dorset Classic show. A highlight of the day was an old chap riding a Brough Superior S100 - just like Lawrence of Arabia's. Not quite the sound of a well tuned Harley but great all the same. The ride back took in Poole and Bournemouth for posing and the New Forest twisties, prior to battling our way back through a bit of heavy traffic on the motorway to Winchester - then up over the downs on the A31 to Guildford and back to Dorking for sunset. A perfect day, great roads, good company and big smiles. Thanks to Roger Ferris who was awesome as tailend charlie.

Sun 11 **Ace Café Reunion** at Brighton. Well there were thousands of bikes alright! And tens of thousands of people! We dodged scooters and rice burners all the way, but amazingly all managed to keep together. And what an entrance we made as Surrey HOG's 30 or so bikes arrived at Maderia Drive and were then directed to the perfect parking spot right at the centre of the action! A good ride - thanks Keith!

Sat 10 Well the **Dead Rock Stars** tour was more Riders in the Storm as the heavens opened on Saturday night which is alright for fighting Saturday night's alright. We left Dorking for Marc Bolan's tree and then it was Thunderbolts and Lightning very very frightening Oh Galileo as we went to Freddy Mercury's place. Our Stairway to Heaven continued to Jon Bonham's departure lounge at Jimmy Page's house and onward through a Purple Haze to say goodbye to Jimi

Hendrix. I wish I was walking on Sunshine but I was not: it was just a Long and Winding Road to our final stop. Maybe some of us were California Dreaming as we stood outside the spot where Mama Cass of the Mamas and the Papas choked on ham sandwich as more Rain Drops kept Falling on my Head. But we had a bonus here because Keith Moon of the Who died in exactly the same bed, why I Can't Explain, something to do with too many tablets and fast living: he should have bought a Harley. Then it was end of the Magical Mystery Tour as we were Homeward Bound I wish I was Homeward Bound, Home where my folks are waiting. PS If we ever go to California on a ride I promise to show Colin where Del Shannon left the planet.

Sun 4 **Graham's Full English** involved his well chosen 'Three Bridges' route through Saaaf Lunnun and included the delights of Richmond Park. Great turn out of members new, not so new, and old - who seemed more than ready for a classic biker's breakfast at a classic biker's venue on a glorious September morning. Simply great!

August 05

Sun 28 Gorgeous weather returned for the well-attended **New Members Ride**. Bing's briefing preceded the 20+ ride down to Bury Hill for coffee and chats, then onto to Southsea for fish and chips. Big Dave selected a nice ride home too, via Glorious Goodwood. Great introduction to group riding for the 10 or so new members - see you all again soon!

Sat 20 - Sun 21 **Cheddar Gorgeous** was just, well, gorgeous. Superb riding weather. Spectacular views over the Mendips from the Hotel terrace. Up and down the Gorge - to much tourist admiration. Gough's Cave. Wookey Hole. Nice roads. And Gary leading. If you weren't there, we will do it again next year. Don't miss it - it's an absolute delight!

Sun 14 **Dale & Michelle's Walkabout Ride-out**. So long Michelle. At least the weather held off for our last ride-out together. Our merry band met up for a ride up to Bury Hill where we met with Steve and Ruth, and the ride leadership was transferred to them, as it is their neck of the woods. We turned right and then we have not the faintest idea where we were. Narrow lanes, open fields, tractors and families of Geese on the roads all the things that make biking fun. Out of nowhere Steve found a pub overlooking Chichester harbour where the food was great, drinks abundant and the views spectacular. Too soon it was over. Dale had been lent a bike by the dealership and we had to get back, tears of farewell, promises of visits and Michelle leaving. Gonna miss you girl...

Wed 10 **Doug's funeral** was a moving experience. Lovely man with a lovely family. Max's eulogy was quite splendid and perfectly pitched. The family had asked for between 10-20 bikes. They got exactly 20 to lead the procession from Headley to Leatherhead where a large number of Doug's friends, relatives and colleagues were waiting. We said goodbye in the way he would have wanted. He will be missed.

Fri 5 - Sun 7 **SOFER 2005 at Bisley** was the excellent social event we all expected. And a much better trader area - and general organisation - this year, as well. Superb BBQ on Fri courtesy of SH-D, followed by chill-out on a nearby colonial verandah. Then easily the best party of the year so far in the Surrey HOG BBQ compound on Sat night. The friendliness, warmth and laughter amongst the 50+ that came are exactly what this HOG thing is all about. And of course, the frisbee battle with Essex Chapter next door! The sight of the coordinated counter-attacks with scores of frisbees in the air was spectacular! We have now been challenged by Essex to a custard pie fight for charity - so watch this space for details! A huge thank you goes from all those of us who just turned up, to the extensive Surrey HOG team who created an

impressively organised HQ that just kept the music, banter, bacon & eggs, burgers and beer flowing non-stop the whole weekend. Truly amazing!

Thu 4 What a pleasure to meet and greet so many new members and their other halves at **Club Night!** Great characters too! From the chats last night, some of our ride-out plans for next year are obviously going to be popular events.

July 05

Sun 31 The **Sunny Sunday Mystery Ride** was sunny after all! Great run through some lovely cross-country roads for some fantastic fish 'n' chips in Hastings Old Town. Well done to the new members for some nice riding and good company!

Sun 24 **War and Peace** turned into wind and rain. The intrepids who braved the conditions as far as Dorking unanimously decided to repair to Newlands Corner for bacon rolls and hot tea - and live to fight another battle, another time.

Thu 21 Another lovely Summer evening **Club Night at Ockley**. Great to see so many there and to meet all the new members who came. The Chapter is clearly emerging from its period of difficulty, bolstered by the commitment of the many members who have now demonstrated their commitment to HOG, also by news of H-D's recent strong endorsement of the Pendragon franchise, and some very exciting new plans ... watch this space!

Sat 16 Several bikes braved the North Circular Road to enjoy the impressive **10th Birthday Celebrations at the Stadium** dealership. The car fire on the way back added to the interest and navigational abilities of the ride-out participants!

Sat 9 - 10 Obviously the weather was saving itself for the **Quantocks weekend!** Perfect combination of sun, scenery, company, hotel and the most wonderful riding roads. Fantastic weekend - if you missed it, don't forget to book for Cheddar Gorgeous on 20-21 Aug - see **EVENTS!**

Thu 7 The weather kept our bikes away from Club Night but not us! A sober evening, though - due not least to the grim events in London today. Our hearts go out to the hundreds of people and their families suffering this horror.

Mon 4 Sure hope they had a better **Independence Day** Stateside - it was a complete washout here! What is this weather about????

Sun 3 Big Dave once more picked a stunning route through the lanes - this time to the **Southampton Aviation Museum**. Good timing too - we had the run of this most interesting testament to the South Coast airplane makers - including the Supermarine Spitfire company. Highlight was the look around the cabin and flight deck of a huge flying boat. Lunch on the Quay, then an equally stunning route back. Exactly the riding we are all in this Club for - excellent!

June 05

Thu 30 **Harley Night at the Ace Café** ... wonder how many made it? Weather let us down this time - ah well, maybe next month!

Sun 26 Sunday's ride-out took us through central London to the Ace café for a bikers breakfast. Onward to the old favourite A1 'Great North Road' to **Knebworth** where we continued the 50s-60s revival with hundreds of Elvis look-alikes driving Corvettes & Mustangs. A 'blowing stars &

stripes' paint job softail won 'best road bike' trophy.

- Fri 24 We managed to miss the thunderstorms with another blazing hot day at **Goodwood** and stood in awe as a 1920 Indian we had been drooling over in the paddock took to the hill. It shot off the line with a massive wheelie showing the full potential of its tuned 120bhp engine making some of the faired race bikes look sick in comparison. Two very low flying RAF tornado's must have beaten the record for the loudest beast ever to be heard at Goodwood. A Good Woods Day!
- Mon 20 The last of us to take the scenic route are now back from a memorable rally in **St Tropez**. Super weather (for the most part!), gorgeous beach, loads of traders, dodgy bands, great facilities, the best company, burning rubber and loadsanoise - wonderful!
- May 05**
- Sun 29 Surrey HOG took 19 bikes to meet **Sammy Miller** (it was really great to talk to him) and we met quite a few friends from several other Chapters to boot. Great ride, great day and great route, Steve!
- Thu 26 Summer stayed with us all evening for Andy's **Harley Night at the Ace**. And what a big turn out at the Cafe! All very pleasant indeed. And very, very bikey. Lovely!
- Sun 22 So the **Mystery Ride** was not to the Black Rabbit in Arundel as widely put about - but to ... well if you didn't go, it's most likely still a mystery! Thanks Gary!
- Sun 15 Waahay! What a debut! Big Dave's Director's Drive was the dogs doodads! The lively country lane route delivered us to the home of the **Watercress Line** right in the middle of the town's Spring Fair! Adoring crowds, organic burgers and unusual entertainment before another lovely country ride back via our Ockley Club Night hostelry for a drink in the afternoon sun - outstanding! Thanks David!
- Sat 14 This 200 miler to **Black Bear** was a very good mix of motorway and (mostly) quiet roads through rural Essex and Suffolk in superb riding weather. Excellent training for the big St Tropez ride! Thanks Terry and Keith
- Sat 7 Wow! Wonderful ride through the North Downs lanes to **Whitstable**! 18 bikes was a perfect number for this one - and a delight to meet and ride with so many new members - but how did we miss every single shower! We will do this one again...
- Thu 5 Delightful riding evening to the Cock Inn, Headley for another convivial **Club Night** at our new 1st Thursday Club Night
- Sun 1 **BBQ at the Inn of the Green**: we really are going to have to do this one again. Great weather, great ride through the Surrey lanes, topped off with David Seaman cooking the food!!!
- April 05**
- Thu 28 Well, the **Ace Café** gives a very different feel to what it's like to be part of the Harley world compared to Bar Vin - and Steve's special route meant that we avoided virtually all the rain! Can't wait for the next one!
- Sun 24 Lovely ride in beautiful weather through the leafy lanes of Surrey and Hampshire to the

promised cream teas at the **Devil's Punchbowl** - then an absolute blast back home! Thanks, Steve!

Thu 21 Superb turn-out at our new 3rd Thursday **Club Night** venue at the Inn on the Green, Ockley; don't miss our 1st Thursday Club Night at the Cock Inn, Headley on 5 May!

Sun 17 **New Members Brunch ride to Brighton** was fantastic - 22 bikes, great weather, exclusive parking, slow twisties down, faster twisties coming back - aaahh the season has started!

March 05

Committee changes

After an extended period of difficulty, Surrey Harley-Davidson has re-organised the Surrey HOG Chapter Committee and with the help of many of the Road Captains, the Chapter has now been re-affiliated as part of the world-wide HOG organisation. The Chapter Officers are delighted to be working with an enlightened Director who understands the complementary needs of Chapter and Dealership. We are further delighted by the growing support of the existing membership as they come to appreciate the longstanding reasons for change. In due course, we will be putting in place a committee selection process so that it will more fully represent the membership. We are welcoming new members into our revitalised chapter and we are developing a full ride-out programme that easily matches those of previous years. Our commitment is to a Chapter that is run as simply as possible for the benefit of all its members and we continue to work toward this aim.